

MOUNTAIN

CENTRE OF CRIMINOLOGY
LIBRARY



*.... of such things
dreams are made*



ECHOES



Volume 8

June

1959

Number 9



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MOUNTAIN ECHOES is published by the inmates of the Manitoba Penitentiary with the kind permission of Major-General R. B. Gibson, Commissioner of Penitentiaries. It is designed to provide inmates with an opportunity for self-expression and a medium for discussion of public problems, and in the interest of promoting useful thought and action within the institution.



No articles of a scurrilous or defamatory nature or in any way detrimental to the administration of justice will be published. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of the administration or editorial staff.

Mountain Echoes

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No. 9

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...editorially

Ingenuity is a capability bestowed upon man to a greater or lesser degree. There are some that rely on their own inventiveness in the making of their individual lives productive or non productive. Another segment relies only on the resourcefulness of others in their respective social stratas. Still others are a combination of the two former groups, a mediocrity, neither assertive nor pacifistic in their endeavors, but quite willing to accept what is acceptable to the majority they are in contact with.

Ingenuity, in the formative years of man, can have a decided effect in his future years, for example, can you recall the first time you had need of an acceptable, and seemingly reasonable excuse for a tardiness on your part? It really wasn't a black hearted lie, was it? Just a white lie, a fib. Perhaps you were late for school mayhap it was arriving home later than mom and dad said you could. No matter what the situation, your ingenuity in thinking up an excuse that would be accepted came to the fore.

Parents, being what they are, are prone to accept such excuses without too much investigation, figuring, I would say, that anyone who could think up such a story on short notice deserved some recognition, and give it in the form of acceptance. Not believing, but accepting on the basis that they themselves had once, in all probability, used the same subterfuges.

I recall that years ago, in the city where I was raised, the city dept. of Licenses had the bicycle licenses of that year painted a very healthy orange color, with black lettering. In those days it was an accomplishment to be the possessor of a bicycle, not to mention a license for said vehicle. However, those who rode their respective bicycles without benefit of licensing were always under a cloud of apprehension, due to the occasional checks made by license inspectors and often, police.

At first glance there seems to be no problem, you were a "had" or you were a "had not." Then ingenuity reared its productive head! A boy I knew, solved his problem by cutting a piece of orange peel to the approximate size of the legalized bicycle license and tied it to the front post of his wheeled steed. Although it had to be changed quite often, due to the drying out process of such peelings it served it's purpose for a time and it was indeed an admirable facsimile of a license tag. Of course, it could not stand up to more than a cursory glance and several times the boy was brought to task by an often smiling policeman, who like the loving parents, saw only the wit of ingenuity and not the effect of what this orange peel could have on this lad, and his sense of values. Eventually, I must add, the bicycle was soon to be officially tagged with an honest to goodness license plate. But I can't help but wonder if the successes of the orange peel didn't leave a mark on this boy, if it didn't set an acceptable pattern for his later years.

Everyday, examples of man's inventiveness are brought to the attention of all of us. In this day and age of Summit Conferences, H. bombs, births and deaths of regimes we are cognizant of man's endeavors. I often wonder who of us uses their ingenuity for the good of others, as well as for our own personal gain. I wonder, too, what orange peels, other men have used and still use, for presentation to the passing glance of our fellow-man.

INMATE WELFARE

REPORT

R. Smith

The duties and concerns of the Inmate Welfare Committee are varied and many. They may consist within the hour, of loading a semi-trailer with empty soft drink cases, or composing a letter to the Commissioner of Penitentiaries. While these duties also consist of the administration of funds, organizing of sports, arbitration, and relative matters. Of much more concern and importance to the Committee than any of these is, the purpose for which the Committee was originally formed --- inmate welfare.

With the resignation of Kenneth Leishman as editor of the Mountain Echoes, two changes in staff have been instituted. The first change, was the appointment by the Welfare Committee of E. J. Albertini as business manager. The past month's financial statement of the Echoes has shown this choice to be a good choice as it's financial state is steadily improving. The second change in staff was the appointment of "Bud" Winters as editor. We were fortunate in the respect that "Bud" was one of the original staff of the "Echoes" and brings with him, experience, writing ability, and an enthusiasm which has shown itself in the past issue and this.

During the past two months the Inmate Welfare Committee sought permission for several changes of items in the canteen. Permission was granted by Warden C.E. Desrosiers and the Canteen Officer, Mr. Elliot to make available mixed soft drinks in the inmates canteen. However, no choice is possible in the type of mixed drinks ordered, you must accept what is available. A request, by the Committee, to have Instant coffee and cocoa and cube sugar substituted for other items now on the canteen list was forwarded to the Commissioner of Penitentiaries. Permission was granted and these items will shortly be available in the canteen.

A request was also forwarded to the Commissioner for permission for the Welfare Committee to use Welfare Funds to purchase prizes for Bridge and Cribbage Tournaments in the "off" season between hockey and ball. Permission was granted to purchase such prizes for this purpose.

A copper plaque of "Ducks in Flight" was presented by Mr. Hancock, on behalf of the Inmate Body, to the St. James Legion No. 4, St. James, Manitoba, as a token of our appreciation for the concert presented here at Stony Mountain on April 12/59.

The Inmate Welfare Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank the H.M.C.S. Chippewa for a generous donation of sports equipment to our sports programme.

Within the past few years many new firsts have been introduced to penitentiaries through out Canada. They have included, here at "Stony" Mountain, the Dale Carnegie Courses, Alcoholics Anonymous, Citizens Forum and others. Rev. Doctor McNiel has been both sponsor and active in most of these programs. Soon and again sponsored by Rev. McNiel, another first will be added to this fine list of efforts. Well known T.V. and radio actor, Glynn Morris, has kindly offered to teach the rudiments of acting to any inmates interested. It is hoped that enough talent can be developed so that at some future date, a play, using inmate actors can be presented. We wish every success to all concerned.

We would like to express our appreciation to Father Grimes, Naval Chaplain, H.M.C.S. Chippewa, and our own Father Bedford for the generous gift of sports equipment which we received recently.

THE EDUCATED MAN

When is a man educated?

When he can look out upon the universe -- now lucid and lovely, now dark and terrible -- with a sense of his own littleness in the great scheme of things, and yet have unfaltering faith and courage.

When he knows how to make friends and keep them, and above all, when he can keep friends with himself.

When he can be happy alone, and high -- minded amid the drudgeries of life.

When he can look into a wayside puddle and see something besides mud, and into the face of the most forlorn mortal and see something beyond sin.

When he knows how to live, how to love, how to hope, how to pray, -- glad to live and not afraid to die, in his hands a sword for evil and in his heart a bit of lifting song. Then -- a man is educated!

-- Joseph Fort Newton.



Portrait

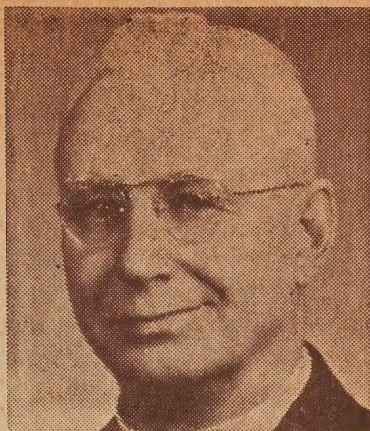


of a



Man

B. Winters



(Data compiled by A.E.M.)

Within the high grey walls of this penitentiary which stands as a monument to man's cupidity, there toils a man who, for the past thirteen years, has spared himself not at all in his endeavors to elevate the oppressive circumstances that beset the unfortunate whose names have become archival numbers. There does not enter here one man who cannot approach this gentleman with his personal tribulations and find a measure of assurance.

In rural Manitoba, in the year 1895, George McNeil first saw the light of day. His early educative gleanings were absorbed in a Killarney school house. The highschool at Roblin, Man. was his next step in advancement to the seats of higher learning. In 1916 Sapper McNeil embarked with a Canadian Engineer Battalion to serve overseas, sharing the world's attempt to end all wars. In 1919 citizen McNeil returned to his home in Roblin and some three years later, entered the University of Manitoba in quest of his Bachelor of Arts degree. In pursuit of this he lost his bachelorhood and was married in May 1924.

Ordained as a minister of the Protestant Clergy in 1929 the Reverend McNeil proudly undertook Brookdale, Man. as his first step in expounding the word of God and serving humanity. In 1931 he was requested by the Mission Board, to go to Flin Flon to carry on his work. Some five years later, during the hard, hungry "thirties", Roblin benefited by his presence.

With the advent of the second world haulocast, George McNeil found himself once again in uniform, an Army Chaplain with the Fort Garry Horse and the rank of Major.

In the year 1946, at the age of fifty-one, a time when most men are looking forward to more restful years, George McNeil undertook the parish at Stony Mountain. In a place where life's sensitivities are often dulled, where men are prone to forget that the "what's in it for me" idealism is not every man's creed, George McNeil has shown that no man stands alone. Too numerous to mention are the individuals he has helped, spiritually, mentally and financially.

To the Reverend George McNeil, B. A., D. D. we extend the wish that you may enjoy many years to come in your rewarding work. The appreciation we feel is ever present for your endeavors in our behalf.

CONFINEMENT!

A.E.M.

Confinement is a term appropriate to more than the experiments now being made with nuclear fission; because at no time in life other than when an individual faces imprisonment for either a short or long period of time is his morale at so low an ebb, and this is to be expected because it definitely is a shock to find one's self facing the unfavorable environment of a prison.

Whatever one may think to the contrary, it is certain that he will not soon forget the moment he (or she) entered the given portals of a place of close confinement for the first time.

That hour, or moment, is the darkest one in the individual's life. He stands face to face with something he has never before experienced, a new norm of life to which, with all his previous experience, he has not been able to identify himself. Everything now is regimented, he is no longer free.... He has to adapt himself to his environment and this he alone can do satisfactorily to himself. If he fails... well, that will mean so much more misery for him! If he succeeds in readjusting himself, then he has a good chance of redeeming something from the wreckage... and prison confinement for him will turn out to be the beginning of a genuine regeneration, but he has to do the major part of the work.

Yet, it may not require as drastic a procedure as "climbing Mount Everest" to induce the individual to follow a sane mode of living. Common sense and a little determination will do much to further the right line of conduct, whether this be in durance vile or out in the free world.

The reason why I selected this subject for my article, is because it fills the bill for each and every one of us, and too, it makes us think.... It makes us take stock of our assets and liabilities... and it makes us aware of the fact that the "ledger of life" must be balanced ultimately, which is something we cannot by any possible manner escape.

Prison confinement need never be a bugaboo for anyone normally, a severe jolt may upset one for a time but, it should never reduce one to the abject status of the confirmed defeatist.

That can only come when and if we permit misfortune to topple us from our normal equanimity and peace of mind. And every individual always has the final say so about that, it's not beyond his control.

For us at Stony Mountain, or anywhere in the world, prison confinement is a distinct crisis. Crisis must be met. They can be met in several ways or they can be shunned and that means they will reduce us to a status of inferiority.

It can be met in the only way which to our mind, it ought to be met, in an honest manner with good sound judgement and thus bring about a favorable end to a bad mess... Much depends on our attitude... more on our will... most on moral character.

Sometimes a bad break can bring about a favorable turn of events, for, it is not always the victor that wins in the final analysis. Victory, for an individual who does not know what to do with victory, is often worse than defeat.

Throughout history it has been proven that man, in his exultation over his enemy's downfall, can descend to unworthy levels which brings about a change in his fortune if he continues on that particular track.

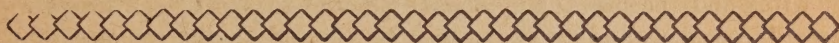
Because he has won a great victory, man grows arrogant. . . becomes careless of the other fellow's rights, and imagines himself to be a demagogue that ought to be placated and pampered. This is a glaring psychological weakness in character and will afford those unfavorably disposed toward him a chance for revenge.

In the hour of victory it is important that a person does not forget that he might have lost, when his status would suffer deterioration and he would have to make radical changes in his mental reactions.

The most abject failure is the man who permits himself to be defeated in his own victory... in other words, gets a swelled head and forgets that humility becomes even a champion.... and we have, throughout history, many such examples that should teach us a sobering lesson in the hour of triumph since nothing is permanent and the future is beclouded with uncertainty. Yet it sometimes takes an atom bomb to wake people to the realization of their best interests... prison confinement to force them into a position where they will have to make drastic revisions, mainly psychological in nature; for, all intelligent activity may be traced to psychological impulses, but these impulses are not the cause of wrong conduct.

The latter is caused by environment, associates and inherent moral weakness of the individual which adds to right or wrong thinking. This again, leads us to one conclusion.... thought, considered from an analytic standpoint, originates from some spiritual entity... indeed, all thought is primarily a psychological function

It depends entirely on the individual's attitude and his consequent reaction to his associates... his environment... or his philosophy of life, whether prison confinement means rise or ruin.



re-print from The Spectator

P P EDITOR WINS NATIONAL AWARD

(PP) Gene Hobart, editor of *The Spectator*, was selected to a membership in the International American Institute recently.

In winning the award and membership, Hobart becomes the first prisoner thus honored in the history of the Institution.

"We feel your editorial accomplishments, along with your fine staff, have rendered outstanding literary, social and moral endeavors to the public in respect to prison life and work," Florence La Fontaine Randall, nominator and I. A. I. representative from Indiana, said in a letter to Hobart. "We congratulate the editorial staff of *The Spectator* and all its associates for a splendid publication worthy of this recognition.

To Gene Hobart, we of the Mountain Echoes staff, extend also, our plaudits and congratulations on his recognition by the International American Institute. It is gratifying to know that such enterprise is acknowledged and rewarded. In all your future endeavors, Gene Hobart, 'Best of Luck' and for your past accomplishments, "Well Done". —ED.



PAROLE COULD BE THE ANSWER

Tony Anthony

Those of us who make up Canada's prison population have seen and probably will continue to see, the seamier side of life. We have had both the good and the bad, with perhaps a triple helping of the bad.

There is however, nothing but futility to be gained by pointing the finger of blame at anyone. We may rant and rave that companys refuse to hire us. That it is impossible to tread the straight and narrow without the benefit of employment. We may shout to the very heavens that we have served our sentences and in so doing have squared our debt with society.

The fact still remains that we have been convicted as thieves and as such will be held in suspicion until such time as we have proven our good intentions. There is no arguing the fact that it is difficult and perhaps impossible to prove good intentions when one is denied the opportunity to do so.

To be fair one must, at the same time, consider it from the business man's view point. He is after all, in business for the purpose of profit. To expect him to jeopardize his business by hiring an ex-convict when there are so many others, without a prison stigma, looking for work is asking a great deal of him. One need only ask of himself what he would do were the positions reversed. If one is honest with himself he would be forced to admit that he would indeed be sorely tempted to by pass the ex-convict.

A small firm can ill afford to replace expensive equipment or tools. Nor can they withstand the loss of any sizable amount of cash. Such losses would not necessarily occur should an ex-convict be allowed on the premises but one can hardly blame the employer for fearing that they would.

A large well established firm will, in all probability, be already suffering appreciable losses from light-fingered employees. To deliberately increase the risk of higher losses by hiring a man with a prison record is again asking a good deal of the employer.

One may have renounced crime for all time but the business man is no sooth-sayer. He is unable to read ones mind. He has only the word of the ex-convict that he has reformed. So many others before him have left their prison cells and forthwith embraced their old life of crime. The business man is well aware of this and as a result he is timid about putting such men on his payroll.

It may appear to the reader that I am suggesting that ex-convicts should not be hired by those in a position to do the hiring. This is not true: Ex-convicts need all the help they can get.

I am endeavoring to paint a word picture of the bleak future facing the inmate of a prison. There is too much talk of how many ex-convicts revert to crime and too little of why.

Society must wonder why it is that Canadian prisons are teeming with men who have served more than one prison term. It has come to believe that prisoners enjoy their confinement. This is appalling. There is born in every man a deep rooted yearning for freedom.

The freshly discharged ex-convict has very little incentive for seeking gainful employment. He is only too well aware of the odds against his finding a decent job. With the few paltry dollars handed him on discharge and filled with the heady aroma of freedom he is overpowered by the urge to make up for the lost years of prison confinement. There is a mad celebration followed by a sickening thud as he realizes that his dollars are gone and no more forthcoming in the immediate future. There comes then a belated and frantic effort to find employment and a hopeless shrug of the shoulders as door after door is shut in his face. There is at last a belligerent curse, a smashing of glass, and a hurried looting as he reverts to crime.

It is obvious that with a small amount of money, a natural desire to celebrate, and difficulty in finding a business willing to hire him the ex-convict is on a one way track leading straight back to the prison.

The reader may feel that the situation is hopeless. That there is no solution to the problem.

I disagree.

The majority of Canadian prisoners are released only after they have served their full sentences, minus "Time Off" for good behavior. As a result there are no restraints attached to his release. He is responsible to no one but himself. He is free.

There is virtually no parole system in Canada. The few that are released by such methods are released only after the greater portion of their sentences have been served. A man serving five years may possibly, just possibly, be offered a six or seven month parole. Should he accept he is then expected to report to a parole officer each month for probably twenty months. Knowing this, few bother to write for a parole. They would rather serve the few remaining months and be entirely free.

If the convict was released from prison when his sentence was half served then that man would not lightly violate a parole. He would then be forced to work to meet the conditions of his parole. As his working days progressed into months he would tend to become settled in his job. He would find that living as others live was not so bad after all. And when his parole expired he would not quit his job. Rather he would be proud of his newly acquired skills and work the harder to better himself. His employer would thus come to have confidence in those with prison records as good risks and would have few compunctions about hiring such men. With the fear of returning to prison for violation of parole one would be less likely to celebrate his release other than in quiet rejoicing until he had secured a job and settled into it. By then the novelty of freedom would have worn off. The mad urge to celebrate in wild jubilation would have given way to sane thought and quiet thankfulness.





HOBBY CHIT-CHAT

G. Ferragne

About two years ago, "Robbie" Robinson and Bob Wilson arrived on a transfer from New Westminister Pen. With them they brought something that had never before been seen or, for that matter, been permitted within the confines of "Stony."

It was unique in that it was something out of the ordinary in the hobbycraft line. No sooner did they arrive than out came needles, thread, thimbles, and yard upon yard of cloth.

Here were two men well experienced in the art of tailoring, putting their experience and long evening hours to profitable use turning out hand tailored sport shirts of the finest quality.

Hardly had they settled down in their new home before orders for their shirts came piling in from inmates with "short" time. These shirts are completely hand made and are guaranteed to fit like a glove. All required measurements necessary for a perfect fit are taken before work is started on a shirt. These consist of neck, sleeve length, shoulder width, chest, waist, and wrist measurement. The materials used in the making of the shirts is of top grade quality and it varies from Alpine to Viyella. The prices of course vary with the materials used.

Today "Robbie" and Bob are no longer alone in this constructive hobby — craft. After a year of apprenticeship under their watchful supervision I am happy to say that, with their approval, I am now a qualified tailor of hand made shirts. It is with a feeling of pride that I lovingly hang a completed shirt in my cell after six solid evenings of needlework.

The shirts most in demand are the plain ones. These sell at the very low price of ten dollars, which is practically giving them away when one considers the amount of work involved and the price of the raw product. At twelve dollars we have Tartans of all types. They range from McGregor to Gordon in the Vicara Line of Tartans. The Viyella Tartans go for about seventeen dollars. The plain Viyella which make the most comfortable shirt on the market today sell at fifteen dollars.

Not only do we fashion men's sport shirts but also on request we make up ladies blouses and skirts. We are hoping that in the very near future we shall be given permission to tailor men's slacks. This is now being done in Prince Albert Penitentiary and also New Westminister.

Orders through the mails will be given prompt attention upon receipt of measurements and particulars.



COMMISSION REPORT



A royal commission report tabled in the House of Commons during April has suggested changes in the treatment of sex criminals. Sex criminals are described as one of societies most baffling problems. Changes recommended are: that sex offenders be sentenced to an indeterminate penitentiary term, that government aided research be conducted to provide better treatment, and that sex offenders be isolated since putting them in prisons with other offenders is clearly detrimental.

Certainly many changes are required in this field, however the question arises; "is this to become another prejudicial Habitual Act?" Men in penitentiaries have found that indeterminate sentences can be as fatal as russian roulette. We fail to see where this problem is "baffling," and feel that the commission has itself arrived at the crux of the problem. Psychiatrists have warned that penitentiaries are in effect natural breeding grounds for sex deviates. To say that it is detrimental to send sex offenders into such an institution is a colossal understatement. surely a special institution for such offenders can no longer be denied. Research and treatment are recommended; until such time as sex offenders are removed from penitentiaries it will be impossible to treat them properly. Few people grasp the full significance of the problem, it would be well to heed the psychiatrists warning. If courts are to sentence men indeterminately then an effective treatment program must be implemented, this is the only assurance that "indeterminate" will not become "life."

We note that the commission report uses the term "sex criminal," perhaps this would be a good point upon which to commence research. It appears that everyone agrees that sex offenders must be isolated and treated. It follows then that these offenders are mentally deranged. Until such time as this fact is accepted and the term "criminal" is abolished there will be limited progress. This same stigma has retarded all phases of penology. The "lunatics" of yesterday are the "hospital patients" of today, progress has been accordant in this field. When the term "criminal" is discarded for "social offender" or some like designate, then too progress shall be accordant.

- - - Saito Says - - -

There is too much emphasis placed on the effect of crime and far too little on the causes. Instead of always harping on crime and its effect and harm upon society, why not try finding out what causes crime in the first place? Remember, criminals can be jailed and damned but it will not stop crime. Because crime is the end result, not the cause. It is easy to damn and condemn others for their mistakes. To search for and dissect causes and motives of why a person becomes a criminal is more difficult. And it seems that society is all too prone to take the easy way out.

There is nothing that gives more confidence and hope to an inmate than letters and visits from loved ones. Each letter gives him the assurance that someone cares; each letter is an inspiration for the inmate to do better. Every visit helps in more ways than the visitor realizes. For a brief half-hour an inmate can relax with the one he loves, and be himself. You have only to look at an inmates face, when a visit fails to materialize, to know how much it means to him. Letters and visits instill faith and hope in the inmate, thus keeping him along the difficult road back.

Practically every newspaper or magazine that one reads these days, contains an article on Juvenile Delinquency. No one seems to have a solution, although they all offer a lot of suggestions, both good and bad. I have a suggestion also, an old-fashioned remedy. Just give your daughters and sons a liberal dose of "Love and Understanding"

Parole board! Parole board! Wherefore art thou, Parole board?

When will the "Powers-that-be" recognize the fact that most drug addicts are not criminals, but sick people who should be helped? Putting drug addicts away in penitentiaries and hiding them from the public eye is an admission by the authorities that they do not want to, or do not know how to, deal with a problem that is increasingly getting worse every year.

In this bewildering atomic age of uncertainty, many people feel the need of a stimulant occasionally, to escape from worry and reality. It may be by using whiskey for the alcoholic, tranquillizers for the neurotic, or heroin for the drug users. One is no worse than the other. Each in his own way is trying to find release from his troubles. Yet the alcoholic and neurotic is accepted by society. They can get help, understanding and medical care, whereas the drug addict is reviled and incarcerated.

A learned judge had this to say! "Retribution as a concept of punishment has passed out of the judicial thinking." It's too bad that he didn't pass this secret on to other judges. Who are daily passing out sentences far out of proportion to the nature of the crimes being committed.

You know, I have been hearing and reading about this word, "rehabilitation" for quite some time now. It's quite a word really; it has symmetry and is melodious to the ear. But, I am afraid that it hides behind a false facade when it is applied to prisoners. When ever a person is imprisoned, it is never for punishment. Oh, no! It is done so that he can be "rehabilitated." At least that is what I was told. Okay, give me some of this, "rehabilitation" stuff. Oh! I see. Rehabilitation must come from within? Alright, I'll buy that. But tell me, how will I learn to live with my fellow man, when I am isolated from him? How can I restore myself to conventionality, when I am placed in an abnormal enviroment? How do I teach myself to think as "free" people do when I am locked in a cage? When you tell me how to overcome these obstacles; well then. I can start rehabilitating myself.

"How come?" A Canadian asked a Swiss. "You have a Minister of the navy, yet you have no Navy?" "Why not?" the Swiss replied, "In Canada. you have a Minister of Justice."

Overheard a couple of old-timers talking about the "good old Days" in prison. When discipline was strict and priveleges were nil. They opined that it was better in those days, as one knew where he stood. They deplore the "lack of discipline" and the "soft living" in this modern age. Well, I can't express an opinion on the old days, as it was a little before my time. But I can say that it is still no country club. However, I suppose it is up to the individual. Tell you the ttuth, fellows, I can do very well without either one-

How many times have you heard the remark, "Wait 'til I get out of here, someone will pay for all this!" I have heard it quite a few times. The cause of the high rate of recidivism can be partly traced to this attitude. Isn't it about time that some of us awoke to the fact that no one, but no one owes us a living? Especially society whom we have wronged. Of course, society put you in here, but it was just a few of society, not society as a whole.

One must realize that he is obligated to earn himself a place in society. Society, after all, consists of your family, relatives, friends and neighbors. They are society, as much as the few that put you in here. If an inmate leaves with the feeling that society owes him a living, then it is a sure bet that his freedom will be a short-lived one.

If anyone has a legitimate complaint or suggestion to make just pass it along to me and I will gladly put it in this column. Well, that's it for this month. So, I'll leave you with this little ode by Ogden Nash:

He who has never tasted jail
Lives within the legal pale
While he, who's served a heavy sentence
Renews the racket, not repentance.

CANADIAN CONGRESS OF CORRECTIONS

K. Leishman

Seven hundred individuals descended upon Vancouver recently, these men and women came from points throughout Canada and the U.S.A. to attend the Canadian Congress of Corrections being held in that city. A glance at the guest list signifies the importance of the congress as such notables as the Justice Minister, parliamentary MP's, specialists in the fields of criminology and penology, clergymen and welfare workers, all attended. The findings and proposals of such a gathering certainly rated national interest and as could well be expected news agencies complied admirably. An educated public is prerequisite to penal reform, it is tragic when such education becomes obscured behind the bickering of public officials who attempt to justify a sad situation. The facts appear simple. Canada's prisons are overflowing---dangerously, we lack an effective probation program, and by world standards our whole system is simply outdated. What few progressive steps have been taken in the past decade were simply belated recommendations made in a govt. report twenty-six years ago. It foregoes logic to ascertain why, when the situation is apparent and the cure is known, the conditions remain unchanged.

It is assumed that the recently adopted Fauteaux report will change the complexion of penology in Canada, Justice Minister Fulton proposes that we shall have the "most up to date system in the world". This is a bold and beautiful statement were it for the fact it entails a twenty some odd years implementation period, it would surely have been met with enthusiasm. The average citizen, or inmate is incapable of envisioning twenty years ahead and furthermore this penological justice will be for future generations. The history of the world has taught that things come to pass in their own good time, confining men has been a public convenience, now it has been cited "A luxury that Canada cannot afford."

The history of the world has also taught that to hit people in their pocket books gets results, this is the situation confronting Canadians today as their "Achilles" heel is forcing a change. A modern penal program is an economy measure first and foremost, this is unimportant from an inmates stand point, what is important is that such a program does exist. Since it is designed to save countless millions of dollars and salvage individuals, why must it take twenty years to come into being? Herein lies great debate, one fraught with complexities, policies and personalities, this fact became painfully evident during the meeting of the Canadian Congress of Corrections. Mankind is continually recording undreamed of achievements in the fields of science, medicine, research, etc., these achievements are realized when trained specialists and professionals work in harmony, and most important, agree in principle. Since penology is but another field of endeavour one would assume that these some simple and vital rules would apply. The fact that these rules do not apply became glaringly evident in the reports emanating from Vancouver's Congress, progress and policy are therefore in direct parallel.

It is difficult to imagine a system as described by Mr. Fulton in view of the present judiciary policy. 92% of all criminal cases are tried in magistrates court during 1958 30,981 cases were handled in Wpg's two courts, an unbelievable feat

Arthur Maloney, Q.C., Conservative member of parliament, assistant to Labor Minister Starr and one of Canada's foremost attorneys in criminal law, describes court rooms as production lines. His views are supported by numerous city lawyers and many of the individuals that received "swift justice." When a single magistrate can average 63 cases per day, the term "production line" is certainly justified. The most amazing fact is that in spite of the figures, the magistrates deny the charge and uphold their "efficient" service. The same magistrates uphold long sentences and acclaim the "deterrent" effects of same—hence the crucial prison situation. As long as magistrates think thusly and retain their omnipotence the only alternative will be more prisons. It is well to remember that these men do not visit the prisons and they are therefore sending men into institutions of which they have no personal knowledge. In contrast it is interesting to note the views of the foremost penologists.

Thomas J. McHugh, formerly in charge of New York's 21,000 prisoners, described as the 'toughest prison problem in the world' says, "My experience has convinced me that few individuals, if any, actually benefit from penal confinement."

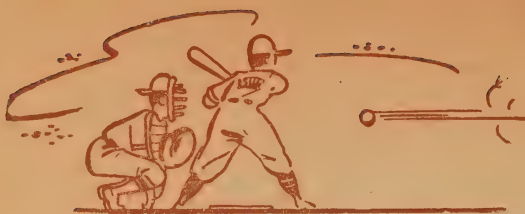
Arthur Maloney criticized magistrates for imposing long sentences saying that "over loaded prisons is a luxury Canada cannot afford."

Dr. Bruno Cormier, one of Canada's leading criminal psychologists, director of the forensic research team at McGill University and psychiatrist at St. Vincent de Paul Penitentiary in Quebec says, "It is not clinically sound to judge a criminal by the gravity of his offence."

Prof. Gill, of the American University in Washington and a former warden describes prisons as "massive monkey cages."

It would be possible to fill a book with similar quotes and remarks, indeed books are being written, and what does it all imply? Most important it points up the complete disagreement in thinking and policy amongst the powers that be. It seems childish for men to defend old beliefs and principles in an era when we find that even the world is not round but rather pear shaped. The magistrate who advocates long sentences and deterrent effects is becoming a horse and buggy symbol in a modern world. Steps will be taken to fulfil Mr. Fulton's hope of effective penal reform when it is finally accepted that social offenders need not rot in prisons. A little understanding and a program designed to inject purpose and principle will prove infinitely better.

In these our times of troubled souls,
Trembling hopes and troubled dreams....
Let there remain in clouded hearts,
A vestage of faith clothed in our schemes,
Within the present.
(Wm. Burton)



BEHIND THE PLATE WITH-68

A. Epp

Once again the four walls surrounding these "halloed halls of learning" echo to the cry of play ball, and with it the wind-up, the pitch, the crack of the bat as a fly ball arcs lazily up into the sky, the flash of spikes as the runner rounds third digging for home and the '59' Base-ball season is on it's way.

And with it the thrills and spills that are part of every game, the good feeling when you win, the frustration when you lose but should have won, the headaches of the manager's as they juggle their line-ups to come up with a winning combination, the heartaches of the guys who tried but weren't quite good enough to make the team, yes, all these things are a part of the game and from now until play-off time rolls around everyone is looking forward to a slam bang season.

The Commissioner this year, Chuck "Big Daddy" Heathman, is a good organizer knows his job, and looks like a man who will rule with a just but iron hand and has surprised everyone with his executive ability.

The manager's and coach's are like their counter-parts everywhere, taking a close look at their youthful and sometimes elderly playing personell and looking very shrewd as they trade this one for that one, and down the third base-line the sideline expert's are arguing the merits of the "Windmill" and "Conservative" pitch and the Umpires are doing their best to convince anyone that will listen that they are human beings too.

Like the Pro's, we too have our spring training period before the season actually gets under way, but unlike our big brother's we don't get to go to Florida. Instead, our workouts are held in "Beautifull Stony Mountain" in the heart of the province, surrounded on four sides by high slate-grey walls which prove to be a constant source of frustration to the batters because try as they may they can't hit one out of this park and, like they say at "OB", that's a fact.

Due to the inclement weather, spring training here has been badly curtailed with the result that only a handful of exhibitions were played, something that has hindered the manager's in getting a good look at their charges, but with everybody giving it everything they've got we feel the teams will be well represented when the season finally gets underway.

Although he was a week overdue, old Mr. Sun finally poked his head through a heavy layer of clouds to signal the start of the 59 baseball season at good old Stony Mountain A and M. All teams in each of the three divisions have made their debut and from now 'till about the end of August we are looking forward to the most successful season ever.

Class "A" ball got off to a slam bang start as the opener saw the "Cards" drop the "Pirates" 6-1, and in the second game it was the "Cards" 10-4 over the "Buc's". In their first meeting of the season the "Bucs" manhandled the "Pirates" 16-5 to chalk up the highest score in this division, and then went on to turn the tables on the "Cards" as they upset Frank Lexier's crew 12-7, to move into a tie for first place with Fighting Frank's "Cards". Congenial, Frank Lexier, manager of

the "Cards" disproves the theory that nice guys finish last, and although he will never win any plaudits as a demon coach, Frank's simple home spun philosophy of "do the best you can" has paid off for him so far, and with guys like Knobby, Spike, Boily, to name a few, the "Cards" have a good chance of winning it all.

The "Bucs" with soft spoken "Bud" Winters at the helm, have also served notice that they intend to be around come the Play-offs, and with big Monty going for them on the mound they should certainly win their share of games this year.

The Pirates, managed by quiet, unassuming Harry Condon, and with a lot of real good players on their roster, looks like a team that could walk off with the pennant if and when they realize their full potential.

In other games, it was the "Pirates" coming up with their first win of the season as they beat the "Bucs" 5-4 and this was the best game in their league to date. The "Pirates" also showed all concerned that the "Cards" can be had when they held them to a 6-6 draw, and the "Bucs" took up where the "Pirates" left off as they took the "Cards" into camp by a score of 12-7.

In another game, Claude Paquin of the "Cards," and Monty of the "Bucs" hooked up in a pitchers duel that was something to see. The "Cards" gave Claude plenty of support as he came out of the game a 6-1 winner to cinch first place for this club.

"B" league ball got off to a fine start and all four clubs in this division have seen action to date. The "Yanks", whose 24-7 win over the "Orioles", was called no contest because of the flu and other ailments, came on to win their next two starts, first edging the "Goldeyes", 9-8 and squeezing by the "Red Sox", 10-7, and this game featured some fine percentage ball as Stubby called the shots and the team executed them perfectly. The "Orioles", with ace right hander Bill Sherman back on the mound held the "Yanks" to a 7-7 draw. Sherman, reputed to be the best pitcher in class "B" ball was at his best for this one but a draw was the best he and his team mates could manage and like the experts say, thats the way the ball bounces. In other games, the "Red Sox" had a field day at the expense of the "Goldeyes" as they hammered out a 22-7 win to fatten their batting averages, and the "Goldeyes surprised everyone by coming back to upset the highly touted "Orioles", 11-5, and then all fired up and rarin' to go after their initial win, held the Yanks to an 8-8 draw and for the "Eyes" this could be considered a moral victory. The "Red Sox", taking advantage of every break that came their way, handed the "Orioles" their second setback of the season as they out-scored them 11-6 to serve notice that the Pennant race will not be as one-sided as some of the experts seem to think.

The "Orioles" got back on the right track as they beat the "Goldeyes" 7-4 to make the race for first place a three way affair. Big Dave Cochane, subbing for Bill Sherman, turned in a real good game with a lot of help from his team mates who seem to improve every time out, and the "Yanks" finally found out what it feels like to lose as the "Orioles" laced them 11-1. There are those that will tell you the "Yanks" got a bad game out of their system, but a spy tells me that unless the team adds pitching strength and tightens up the infield, they could be knocked out of the running early. The "Goldeyes" continued their losing ways as the "Red Sox" pushed them deeper into the cellar with a 9-2 win. With a little help from their parent club the "Eyes" could be a real contender, so lets hope they're in there when the Playoffs roll around.

The class "C" opener turned out to be a lopsided affair as the "Sputnicks" swamped the "Cloverleafs" 28-6 to start their season off with a bang, while the "Tigers", not to be outdone, hit the "Wanderers" all over the field to roll up a 13-3 score. The Cloverleafs, out to avenge their loss to the Sputnicks, came up with an 11-4 win to even things up between those two clubs, but had to bring in big Ken Bevins on the mound to do it. The fire breathing Cloverleafs came up with a fine defensive brand of ball as they tamed the Tigers 5-2 to take over first place in this league. In another game the Sputnicks were just no match for the rejuvenated Cloverleafs as they were outscored 11-4 by the league leaders. The Tigers could do no better as they were set down by a 6-2 count and at this point it seems to be a one team league.

Hank's Sputnicks came out on the long end of a 17-12 score over the Wanderers and this game would be termed as the battle of the wood as the teams piled up 29 runs between them. The Tigers roared back to a 10-2 victory over the Wanderers to clinch the number two spot, and the Cloverleafs again came out on top of the Sputnicks with a 12-6 win to wrap up first place for this edition anyway. Tigers continued their winning ways with a 9-5 win over the Sputnicks to wrap up this issue. Due to the number of games that must be covered it is impossible to give you the details of each game and a blanket coverage will have to do for now.

HERE AND THERE:.....Baseball is by no means the only game played here during the summer months. Way out in left field, on No. 1 diamond, the handball court is a continual bee-hive of motion as the player's move on and off the court with monotonous regularity, and right next to the handball court is the horseshoe pit where the old timers and those that are used to a more sedentary way of life gather to spend an afternoon or evening, which ever the case may be.

Just around the corner from the pit is the volley ball court where the action is hot and heavy every night... And out behind the shops is the tennis court and the aristocrats of the athletic world, the tennis players, from whose lips, nightly comes the cry of service as they send a high hard one across the net.... And for those who, for reasons of there own, do not wish to participate in any sport, there is a spacious yard to walk around in, or, if they prefer, grandstands from which they can watch their favorite team in action and cheer or keep silent as the mood strikes them.....So you see, young, old, shy or handicapped, there is something here for everyone.

Before we forget, a big bouquet to the grounds-keepers who always have the diamonds in terrific shape, and the "Echos" also wishes to take this opportunity to wish the managers, coaches and players of the respective teams good luck and best wishes for a successful season.

That's all for this month and, as Mel Allen would say, "How about that!"

ALL STARS



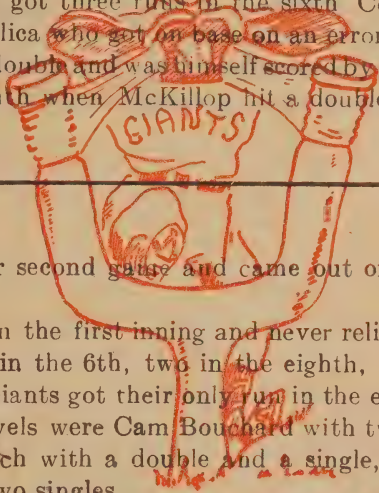
Don Hambleton

Manitoba Clothing vs Giants

On the 24th of May we saw the first visiting team of the season go down to defeat at the hands of the Giants.

After two scoreless innings the Giants came up with three runs. An error put Montgomery on base then Proulx stepped up and hit a home run to make the score 2 to 0. McKillop came up with a double and was sent home by Condon's double. In the fourth the Clothiers came up with two runs. Waugh got on base on an error and came home when Sobkovith hit a triple.

Sobkovith then came home on a Giant error. The Giants came up with another run in the fifth when Benning, who got on by a single, was sent home by Derochers triple. Manitoba Clothing got three runs in the sixth. Cobbleduk hit a double and was sent home by Kulica who got on base on an error. Smith then sent him in to score when he hit a double and was himself scored by S. Kuklica. The Giants won the game in the eighth when McKillop hit a double scoring Montgomery and Stubbs.



Kiewels vs Giants

The Giants played their second game and came out on the losing end of an 8 to 1 score.

Kiewels took the lead in the first inning and never relinquished it. They had one run in the first, one in the 6th, two in the eighth, three in the tenth and one in the eleventh. The Giants got their only run in the eighth.

Leading batter for Kiewels were Cam Bouchard with two singles and a home run, Slevin and Taylor each with a double and a single, and Sharp, Paquette and Hamilton each with two singles.

The Giants batters were, Watcher with a double and two singles, Condon with a double, and McKillop and Greene each had a single.

Mr. Ed Bailey, President of the Winnipeg Senior Men's Fastball League was present and had a guest with him. The guest was an Umpire by the name of Herb Hanson. Mr. Hanson has only recently come to Winnipeg and brings with him ten years experience as an Umpire. It was a pleasure to watch him at work behind the plate. I hope we will see more of you Mr. Hanson in the future. We welcome you to the house on the hill.

Winnipeg Auto Electric vs Giants

The Giants scored their second win of the season when they beat the Auto Electric 11 to 1.

The Giants started the ball rolling in the second inning when they scored six runs. They got one more in the third and didn't score again until the sixth when they scored three more runs. In the top of the seventh the Auto Electric came up with their only run of the game. The Giants scored one more run in the bottom of the seventh to complete the scoring.

Both teams used two pitchers. For the Electric's, the first was Archie who lasted 1 2 / 3 innings. Charles H. then took over for the rest of the game. Montgomery started for the Giants. Paquin took over after the fifth inning.

This game was the last of three exhibition games.



THE GIANTS

Manitoba Clothing vs Giants

On Sunday, June 14th., the Giants won a 6-2 victory over the Manitoba Clothing. This was the first game for the Giants on the 1959 Fastball League Schedule.

The Clothiers went down 1 2 3 in the opening. The Giants got 5 of there 6 runs in the bottom of the first. The first two batters for the Giants each hit singles. The third popped out to second base. Watcher then hit a home run scoring three runs. Condon then came up with a triple. Proulx walked. Both men were sent home to score by Derocher who hit a single. That ended the scoring for that inning.

The Giants scored their sixth and last run in the second inning. McKillop got on base with his second hit of the day. Next came Benning with a single. McKillop was put out second to third. Benning scored when Condon got on base on an error. Although the giants got three more hits they couldn't push another run across the plate.

The clothiers got their first run in the sixth inning after Kerlyk got on, on an error. He was sent home when another error put Malek on base. Their next run came in the top of the ninth inning. Kondrishon made first on a hit. He was sent home to score when McKelvie came in to bat and hit a double.

The winning pitcher was Montgomery who let only two hits in six innings. He was then replaced by Paquin who did a good job of relief pitching.

Crisco pitched for the losers He gave up ten hits and walked only two.



RAMBLING

Slippery Syd

It looks like this kid who was told by Momma to "Leave Your Guns At Home Son" is going to be shot down more often then Tom Dooley was hanged. Lordy what misery!

I've been reading a piece in the paper about mind over matter. This fellow goes on to say that if enough people concentrate on a given object they can move it without actually using any physical force. Now here I think is a stup-nig idea. I'm rather surprised that it hasn't been thought of before. Why don't we all get together, all of us in here that is, and we'll see if we can't remove each other from this heart-break-hotel? Hmm, come to think of it there are more people out there than there are in here and they'd probably concentrate on sending us right back in. I'd have probably gotten a headache from all that concentrating anyway.

Some people seem to think they are dispensing justice when they send youngsters to a penitentiary. I don't care a hoot how bad a boy actually is, he's never so bad that a penitentiary term will do him any good. Put a teenager in a place of this sort and not only is he condemned for life but society will eventually pay through the nose for it. Sure the boy has done wrong. In all probability he has committed numerous crimes. Probably too he has other convictions registered against him. Irregardless of all this, he still deserves something better than a term in a penitentiary. Most certainly he is not going to be reformed by his stay in such a place. Quite the opposite is usually the case. He will leave the prison much more determined to be a thief.

Most youngsters sentenced to the penitentiary enter feeling a wee bit on the scared side. They know that however society has chosen to regard them, they are but boys in a man's world. They have the idea, derived from movies no doubt, that all convicts are ferocious, long-toothed, scar-faced villians, ever on the alert to pounce on the unsuspecting with the intent to commit mayhem. Within a few days they find that most merely want to be left in peace while they struggle to finish their sentences. It is not too long before they have an idea that they are the cock-of-the-walk. From here and there they glean a few dribbles of information on the different methods of stealing. You people who have sent him here will eventually be on the receiving end of his learnings. Some of them are lads well worth saving. Why not give it a little more effort.

Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened.

—Churchill

Letters to the Editor

The Editor,
Mountain Echoes,

Dear Sir:

This is a red letter day -- I caught your Echoes in this morning's mail and must hasten to thank you for the Complimentary issue. Please renew my subscription for another year.

I like to listen to the voice of the Penal Press and look forward each month to receiving the various penitentiary magazines. My imagination reaches out to every one of you behind prison walls to share the dreary hours with you.

You say in the April edition that the biggest single change of the Echoes is the new French section. You're right! It looks like fascinating material, if only I understood French!

The author of "Christmas Does Not Always Mean Happiness" deserves first prize. It is a nice delicate story, with a true and lovely ending. I am inclined to agree with Tony Anthony re: his article, "Man". But let's hope for the best.

Bye for now, Yours Sincerely

(Mrs) J.R. Douglas

16278-110 Avenue, R.R.3

North Surrey, B.C.

EDITOR; Mtn. Echoes;

Dear Sir:

In the April issue of the Echoes a story entitled "Christmas Does Not Always Mean Happiness" appeared in which the author related some sad experiences while living in Fort William in 1942. These experiences were very unflattering to Ft. Wm. and its residents. Being a Fort William product, and living there for part of 1942 and 1943, I take exceptions to some of his remarks.

This young man, when 17 years of age was moved to the interior of Canada as a result of war between Canada and Japan. I would like to think that, because of his age, and in all probability the first time he was separated from his family, this fellow was more than a bit lonesome as a result of his forced move. However, because some of his statements are incorrect, I feel they should not go unchallenged.

He states how he was mistreated by the citizens as a whole, who treated him worse than they would a dog, jeered at him, how he was made to stand in streetcars and in the whole city only three cafes would serve him. He ends up by saying after he walked out of a cafe which would not serve him, he went back to his hotel room. Lying on the bed, crying, he hears singing and when he opens the window and looks across the street, he sees carollers singing in front of the City Hall.

During the period he mentions, I remember a number of

Japanese fellows sitting in streetcars and buses. I sat alongside of many myself in cafes, shows and streetcars. I might mention that Italian (I am one myself) and German nationals were also living in this city. Insofar as hearing and, upon opening his hotel window, seeing carollers across the street in front of the City Hall, his memory must be playing him tricks. There is not now, nor ever was a hotel across the street from the city hall, nor is there one anywhere nearby where you can see the front of the city hall from your window. The closest one is several blocks away, and not in direct line, which is, incidentally, one of the city's finest, The Royal Edward.

In conclusion I would like to say that today, in Fort William, there are many families, of Japanese origin, who decided to stay and make Fort William their permanent home after the war. They are hard working and respected citizens of the community. Does this sound as though Fort William was hard on them during the war? I don't think so!

Yours truly,
E. Albertini

The Editor,

Dear Sir:

May I, on behalf of the Blood Donor Division of the Manitoba Red Cross, extend to you and to all those associated with you at Stony Mountain Penitentiary, our sincere and warm thanks for the outstanding support that you gave the recent blood donor clinic held at Stony Mountain Penitentiary.

Upon viewing my copy of Mountain Echoes, I was most happy, to say the least, for the support which we received and we do want you and your associates to realize the deep appreciation we have for your support.

On April 30th, we registered 259 donors which is the second largest blood donor clinic ever held in Stony Mountain Penitentiary. In August, 1957, we registered 265 donors which was the largest clinic ever held at Stony Mountain Penitentiary. However, I do believe that the number of inmates at Stony Mountain Penitentiary was somewhat larger than at present. I would think that this has been the largest percentage of donors ever registered.

Once again, may I express to all those concerned, our most sincere and warm appreciation for helping us "Keep Life Blood Free To All."

Yours truly,
Charles H. Spence,
Donor Panel Director.

If you have any comments or suggestion on how to improve our magazine, please write and tell us about them.

PENAL ECHOETTES

Pat Sasio

For the information of the reader: This Penal Press exchange page is a way of expressing our opinions and gratitude, to the various newspapers and magazines that we receive from penitentiaries and reformatories in Canada, the U. S. A. Hawaii and South America. Any advice or criticism on the "Mountain Echoes" will be heartily welcomed, as we would like to know what others think of our contribution to the Penal Press.

THE SPECTATOR — JACKSON, — MICH. We receive your newspaper regularly. Many thanks. Your guestatorial by Dorothy Scheer certainly hits the nail on the head. It is true, that there exists a woeful gap between the 'free world' and the one we live in. As she states, the Penal Press is not quite enough, as it reaches only relatives and professional people, but rarely the man on the street.

THE CORRECTOR — CHICAGO, ILL. True, the importance of the Penal Press cannot be stressed enough. It is the opening wedge that prisoners have long sought. The article on rehabilitation is wisely written and well put together. Have always liked your poetry section, and once again, the poems are of top quality.

THE REFLECTOR — PENDLETON, IND. "The Real Prison," by H. C. Brown is an article that is worthy of reprint in any magazine. For no matter how much Penologists and Criminologists may discourse on the penal system, it is only we, the numbers, that know the real prison. Your paper is one that is always read and thoroughly enjoyed.

AGENDA — WALLA WALLA, WASH. Your editorial in the March — April edition, expresses my sentiments exactly. This is the first time that I have seen your magazine. And I am, already, anxiously awaiting the next issue. Wonderful job, fellows. "A Day in Prison" is one of the best articles that I have ever seen or read in any magazine. The layout, text and pictures were all excellently done.

AGRICOLA — LONDON, OHIO. Liked the story, "His little Girl," also "These are the Lifers." The article, "Dwarfed Minds," struck my fancy. Isn't it strange, that many of us never achieve this perspective on life until we are imprisoned?

THE PRESIDIO — FORT MADISON, IOWA Have just finished reading your May issue. It left me gnashing my teeth in envy. As always, a superlative edition. Especially liked the story, "Charley Checks In." Congratulations to Bob Neese on his success. He should prove an inspiration to all prison writers.

LAKE SHORE OUTLOOK — MICHIGAN CITY, IND. Yes, it is ironic isn't it? That we were entertained by the "Zeniths," who live next door to you. And yet, you have never seen them. As usual, R. L. Moseley has come up with some good points in regards to prison writers.

LANEDALE NEWSY NEWS — WOMEN'S REFORMATORY, ROCKWELL CITY, IOWA We have received your latest issue and enjoyed every page of it. However, we are disappointed to learn that you will not be back till next fall. We enjoy reading your magazine as it is just what the heading suggests — Newsy News. Who else, but a woman would think up such a name? Thanks for keeping us on your mailing list. We, certainly, will not forget you.



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is
a Topper!
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Confucious say

Mountain's have many Echoes